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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With respect to the objection to the Drawings on pages 2-3 of the Detailed Action, referring to features recited in claims 8, 12, and 18 not shown in the drawings, these claims are cancelled without prejudice by the above amendment. No amendment of the Drawings is therefore necessary, and withdrawal of the objection to the Drawings is accordingly requested.

With respect to the rejections of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs, claim 20 is cancelled without prejudice by the above amendment.

With respect to the objection to claims 5 and 11 on page 4 of the Detailed Action, claim 5 is amended above to make it clear that the different relative weights apply to the regulated currents that are supplied to the power distribution network. It is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is already clear in this respect and that accordingly no amendment is necessary therein.

On pages 4-5 of the Detailed Action, claims 1-2, 4, 9, 15-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Rock US Patent No. 6,121,693. This rejection is respectfully traversed, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites in the last three lines that "each of the power sources is responsive to the sensed voltage for supplying a regulated current or a regulated power to the power distribution network". Correspondingly, independent claim 9 recites "regulating currents supplied by the plurality of power sources to the power distribution network in dependence upon the sensed voltage", and independent claim 15 recites "at least one sensor for sensing a parameter of the arrangement for regulating the power supplied to the power distribution network from the plurality of power sources".

Thus each of the independent claims of this application recites that the currents or powers from the power sources are regulated in dependence upon the sensed voltage or other parameter. This feature of the present invention as claimed is not disclosed or suggested by Rock.

In this respect the Detailed Action contends on page 5 that Rock teaches that "each of the power sources is responsive (switched off) to the sensed voltage for supplying a regulated current

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or a regulated power to the power distribution network. This is not correct. Rock teaches that loads can be isolated by load isolators (e.g. 74a-c), and that power supplies can be isolated by supply isolators (e.g. 73a-c). Such load or supply isolation, for continued operation in the event of load and supply failures as disclosed by Rock (e.g. at column 1, lines 10-12), does not constitute regulation as required by the independent claims of this application.

A person of ordinary skill in the art, to whom the present specification including the claims is addressed, would clearly appreciate and fully understand that the regulation of current or power in dependence upon a sensed voltage or other parameter as recited in claims 1, 9 and 15 of this application is distinct and completely different from the load or supply isolation disclosed by Rock. For example, regulation refers to normal operation, whereas load or supply isolation refers to a fault condition.

In addition, Rock teaches away from the present invention in this respect. In Fig. 5 of Rock and the related description at column 6, lines 4-10, a curve 110 shows that current increases until it reaches a maximum value of 4 Amps, this being a threshold value of the load isolator, at which the isolator disables output power to the load. It is clear from this that Rock does not regulate either current or power to the load, but rather allows current to increase without regulation.

Thus each of the independent claims 1, 9 and 15 of this application is clearly and patentably distinguished from Rock, and is neither anticipated by nor unpatentable over Rock.

It is further observed in this respect that claim 1 of this application recites "at least one voltage sensor for sensing voltage at at least one point in the power distribution network" to which the power sources are responsive for the regulation recited above, and independent claim 9 correspondingly recites "sensing voltage at at least one point in the power distribution network", the regulation being dependent upon the sensed voltage.

The Detailed Action contends at the top of page 5 that the arrangement of Rock further comprises "at least one voltage sensor (item 62a-c supply isolators monitor for a threshold voltage see for example claim 5 in column 6 lines 60-65) for sensing voltage at least one point in the power distribution network" [sic], but this contention is not correct. As discussed above,

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Rock discloses monitoring load current and does not appear to disclose any voltage sensor or sensing as recited in these claims. Rock's use of a threshold voltage in his current sensor does not make this a voltage sensor as claimed.

Similar distinctions apply to claims 2, 4, 16, 17 and 19 which accordingly are also not anticipated by Rock. In particular, Rock does not disclose or suggest the voltage sensors specifically recited in each of claims 2 and 17 or the regulated current sources specifically recited in each of claims 4 and 16.

The Detailed Action also rejects the other dependent claims of this application under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rock in view of Murabayashi et al. US Patent No. 6,121,693, Hayward et al. US patent No. 6,317,345, Levran et al. US Patent No. 5,982,645, or Wantanabe et al. US Patent No. 6,373,671. None of these further references makes up for the deficiencies of Rock as discussed above in relation to the features of the present invention as claimed in the independent claims 1, 9 and 15 of this application from which these dependent claims depend.

In particular none of these further references discloses or suggests the feature of the currents or powers from the power sources being regulated in dependence upon the sensed voltage or other parameter, as discussed above. Thus this is also not disclosed or suggested by any combination of the applied references. Accordingly, all of these dependent claims of this application are believed to be properly allowable in this application with the independent claims from which they depend, for at least the reasons given above. It is therefore believed not to be necessary to discuss the further references in detail.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-17 and 19, retained in this application and as now amended, is properly allowable. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this Application.

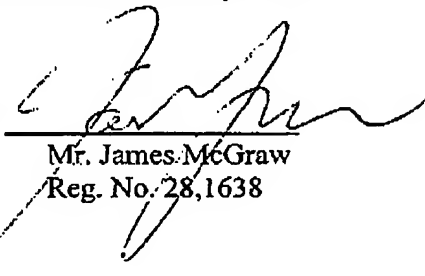
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In view of the foregoing, early favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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